



**BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER** is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268**

## Thank You!

Prairie Day participants and donations that made it a great success!



**Thank you to Blue Springs Cosentino's Price Chopper North** for their generous donation of lunches for Prairie Day 2006. All the visitors proclaimed what a wonderful addition this was to the event. How could you spend a better day than in the middle of a prairie, with Native Americans, prairie settlers, oxen, mule, basket weavers, rope makers, music, and dancers then relax with a hot dog and pop. Magnificent! Thank you!

**Thank you to Elaine Williams**, Volunteer Naturalist, for all of her extraordinary efforts in getting all of the musicians, dancers, oxen, mule, and crafters arranged for Prairie Day 2006. Thank you for the countless hours spent for the enjoyment of others!

### Eagle Scout Project:

Check out the new reptile enclosures outside the back window. These enclosures were built by Eagle Scout, Luke Rios. All reptiles need Vitamin D in order to properly digest their food. Sunshine is the only way they receive this necessary vitamin!



# The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 20 July 2006 Number 07



Serving nature and you™

## Some Good Ol' Fashioned Mud

How many of you have similar childhood memories of the story in the caption? I treasure them. As it always happens, I ventured into adulthood and became a mother of three daughters, now grown. Opportunities for them to roam the neighborhood as I did and walk to school became non-existent. It just wasn't safe. It is a new world we live in. We worry about strangers, traffic, mosquitoes, ticks... The list goes on and on.

According to Richard Louv, author of the book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*, today's children are more likely to be able to lead you through the intricate maze of a video game, or know the name of cartoon characters than to know the beetles or trees just outside their own front door.

Instead of exploring a creek or going on a treasure hunt in the woods, our children stay in their climate controlled homes behind locked doors, watching television, or playing computer and video games.

I am fortunate. My job involves doing what I love most: sharing nature and being outdoors with others. I still live to play in creeks! My favorite programs at Burr Oak Woods are the ones where we explore the fabulous Burr Oak Creek. I once had a participant in a program that was not happy to be taken away from his virtual world. I challenged him that exploring this creek would be more incredible than any video game. He was skeptical, but as the afternoon ended, he smiled at me with a mud streaked face and agreed. I have posed that question to many children since that day, and have never received a negative answer.

Yes, this is a different day, but exploration of the

*Parents have the power to ensure that their son or daughter will not be the last child in the woods.*

*Richard Louv*

wonders of nature does not have to end! In fact, for a child's developmental needs to be met, exposure, even immersion into nature is imperative to the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of a child.

This summer, Burr Oak Woods is proud to announce a series of GO WILD programs for your children. (see program listings in this Nutshell) These extended outdoor experiences will give your child the opportunity to "take off their shoes, wiggle their toes in the mud," so to speak, and explore the natural world. Come and discover some good ol' fashioned mud with us! You'll have a story to share...

*Lisa LaCombe*



Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

*The Nutshell*

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**Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!**

# J u l y P r o g r a m s

## PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) **ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

**1 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Missouri Conservation Frontiers:**

**ABC Nature Hunt**

**All ages (children 12 and under must be with an adult)**

A is for Alfalfa butterfly...B is for bur oak...C is for chipmunk. Join us as we search for items in nature that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**1 Saturday or 2 Sunday,  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Summer Scavenger Hunt**

**Families (all ages)**

What better way to spend this summer holiday weekend than outdoors? Grab your family and come to Burr Oak Woods for a summer scavenger hunt! Stop by the nature center to pick up a Summer Scavenger Hunt worksheet and head outdoors on your own as you hunt for the items on the list. Dress for the weather. No registration required.

**6 Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Go Wild: Life Under a Fallen Log**

**Ages 2 – 3**

Many visitors only look for the BIG animals as they hike the trails at Burr Oak Woods. They never stop to see the small communities under trees and rocks in the forest. In this Go Wild program, we will head straight out to the trail in search of fallen logs and uncover the mysteries underneath. Please call to register.

**6 Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Go WILD at Burr Oak Woods**

**Ages 9 – 12**

*Like the winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question of whether a still higher standard of living is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free.*

*Aldo Leopold*

Join the naturalists as we take a walk on the WILD SIDE while exploring the winds and sunset, and search for the wild animals that call this Burr Oak Woods home. We will use Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac as our guide and nature as our textbook. Dress for hiking cross-country. Bring water bottle and wear sturdy shoes. Please call to register.

**7 Friday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Go Wild: WET and WILD!**

**Ages 9 – 12**

Burr Oak Creek has many delightful secrets just waiting to be discovered. Go Wild with us as we explore its hidden wonders. Your children will learn how to do a scientific survey, as well as participate in wet and wild fun-filled activities as we wade the creek. Dress to get wet and muddy! Bring a towel and change of clothes. Join in on the fun! Please call to register.

**8 Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Family Fishing**

**Families (with children 5 yr and up)**

It's spring and that means it's time to bait the hooks and have some good ol' fashioned fun at the Burr Oak Woods' educational pond. We'll provide all the equipment and worms. Bring your child(ren) and we'll teach them the basics of fishing and then they'll try their luck. **ATTENDEES 16 TO 65 YR MUST HAVE A VALID FISHING LICENSE**, available for purchase at the Nature Center. Please call to register.

**8 Saturday, 9:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Burr Oak Woods Hiking Adventures:**

**Knob Noster State Park**

**Adults Only (20 and up)**

Join a volunteer naturalist as we explore beautiful nature trails at Knob Noster State Park near Whiteman Air Force base. The trails feature heavily wooded areas, a savanna, and lakes. The trails are considered moderate to difficult. Wear appropriate walking shoes; bring a of bottle water, and a snack. Please call to register.

**8 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Babes in the Woods: Summer Fun**

**Ages infant – 2**

Summer is a wonderful time to be outside with your infant or toddler. Join us as we share ideas and activities to help your child enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. We will take a walk on one of our trails, so bring a stroller. Please call to register.

**9 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:30**

**Dutch Oven Cooking 101**

**Adults Only (18 and up)**

Does camp cooking mean bologna sandwiches and potato chips to you? If you want to eat well on a camping trip without a big mess come to Burr Oak Woods and learn the basics of Dutch oven cooking. We will discuss selecting equipment and how to season and care for your ovens. You will also learn how and what to cook in your oven and taste a Dutch oven dish. Please call to register.

**10 Monday, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on 11 Tuesday**

**Go Wild: House on Your Back**

**Ages 13 - 17**

In this Go Wild series, you will have the opportunity to go on an overnight backpacking in the wilds of Burr Oak Woods! We will cover areas in outdoor cooking, setting up your tent, map & compass, and how to pack & carry your backpack! To register for this program, please pick up an application and information packet at the front desk. Register early, size is limited! Begins on Monday, July 10.

**11 Tuesday, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Go Wild: Creepy Crawly Fun!**

**Ages 4-6**

Spiders are an animal that many love to HATE! However, in this Go Wild program, we will learn how to appreciate the complexity of the Arachnid lifestyle. Join us as we study the different habits of spiders and hike the trails in search of eight-legged critters. I bet everyone will learn something new! Please call to register.

**14 Friday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Go Wild: Habitat Hunt**

**Ages 7-10**

Let's go exploring in our local habitats to find what is there and who lives there. We will search for bugs on the prairie. Then we will explore a woodland in search of mammals and birds. Last, we will get wet in the stream collecting critters. Dress appropriately for the weather. Bring a water bottle and a snack. Please call to register.

**15 Saturday, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**The Wild Ones: Wild Edibles Hike**

**Adults only (20 and up)**

Meet Volunteer Naturalist Frances Mathews at the Bethany Falls picnic pavilion for a Wild Edible's Hike. Please bring water bottle and wear sturdy shoes. Please call to register.

**15 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales**

**Ages 2 and up**

Join us for the story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required.

**15 Saturday, 10:00 – Noon**

**Missouri Conservation Frontiers**

**Color Hike and Journaling**

**All ages**

Everything is not green and brown in nature. This hike will be for the young artist and the nature enthusiast. We will head outdoors in search of a rainbow of colors. We will sketch our finds in a nature journal (provided) with colored pencils. Talent is not required just an interest in the outdoors. Limited to 12 journaling artist, families encouraged to hike with younger children. Please call to register.

**16 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Winged Jewels**

**All ages**

Join a naturalist as we discuss this fascinating group of insects – butterflies and moths. Learn the difference between the two and some interesting habits. We will hike various habitats (prairie, woodland and wetland) in search of these colorful critters. Bring your own binoculars or borrow one of ours. Don't forget your camera. Participants can make a craft to take home. Please call to register.

**17 Monday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**or 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Intermediate Outdoor Skills:**

**Float and Fish**

You learned how to canoe and fish at our outdoor skills camp, now put your skills to use. We will meet at James A. Reed Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit. You will practice your skills at canoeing on the bigger lake and when you demonstrate proficiency, you have the chance to try some float fishing. Bring the water bottle you earned at skills camp, bug spray, and sunscreen! **\*Note! You must have a statement signed by your canoe and fishing instructor from the Burr Oak Woods Outdoor Skills Camp in order to participate in this class. Please call to register.**

**Little Acorns**

**Go CAMPING!**

**Ages 3 – 6**

Who says we have to leave the comforts of home to go camping? This month we will be learning how to cook outdoors, pitch a tent, practice fire safety, and MUCH MORE! Please call to register.

**Choose one of the following  
dates and times.**

**20 Thursday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**or 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**22 Saturday, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**25 Tuesday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**or 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**27 Thursday, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**or 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**18 Tuesday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Lessons Learned From Purslane Garden Tour**

**Adults only (20 and up)**

We will visit family owned vegetable produce garden in Missouri river bottom land to locate purslane growing in the wild. This little plant is a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids, imperative to good health. Meet at 9:00 am at Blue Mills School on Blue Mills Rd. Please call the Nature Center to register and receive directions.

**22 Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Family Fishing**

**Families (with children 5 yr and up)**

It's spring and that means it's time to bait the hooks and have some good ol' fashioned fun at the Burr Oak Woods' educational pond. We'll provide all the equipment and worms. Bring your child(ren) and we'll teach them the basics of fishing and then they'll try their luck. **ATTENDEES 16 TO 65 YR MUST HAVE A VALID FISHING LICENSE**, available for purchase at the Nature Center. Please call to register.

**26 Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Go Wild: Totally Trees**

**Ages 4-6**

Trees are an important resource to all of us. Join us for a morning of learning about these magnificent plants. We will learn what they do for us and what we can do for them. You'll be amazed at how different each one can be and the history they write for us. Dress appropriately for the weather. Bring a water bottle. Please call to register.

**29 Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Women's Only: Canoeing/Kayaking**

**Women only (20 and up)**

Missouri has over 57,000 miles of floatable streams! Let's launch our boats on the pond and learn the skills that you will need to plan a float trip of your very own. We will even teach you the most sought after paddling technique. After you have mastered this skill, we will do a race! Leaving this program will make you feel more confident to venture on your own! Please call to register.

**29 Saturday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Scavenger Hunt**

*For families and friends with the deaf and hard of hearing*

**Families (with children 4 and up)**

Come and join the fun in the art of letterboxing! We will be making our own rubber stamps and journal, learn a new skill in using a map and a compass, crack some animal clues and then we will go on a scavenger hunt in search for several Burr Oak Woods' own wildlife letterboxes! Please call to register.

**30 Sunday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Stream Sampler**

*For families and friends with the deaf and hard of hearing*

**Families (with children 5 and up)**

In this hands-on activity, we will spend the morning surveying the biological communities in streams. We will also examine the physical characteristics of a stream and test the chemical water quality. Don't miss this fun and educational experience. Water is our most precious resource. Let's make a difference! Be prepared to get muddy and wet. Meet at Bethany Falls parking lot. Please call to register.



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## JULY PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

**28900 E Argo Road  
Grain Valley, Mo 64029  
816-229-4448**

[www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity](http://www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity)

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call **816-229-4448** for information and to register for these programs.

**1 Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Shotgun Shooting: Multi-Target**

**7 Friday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Teen's and .22's**

**13 Thursday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**22cal Metallic Target Shoot**

**15 Saturday, 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Ladies' Firearm Safety Ph.I**

**19 Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Youth Air Rifle**

**21 Friday, 9:00 – Noon**

**.22cal Three Position Silhouette**

**27 Thursday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Beginner's Archery Pt.I**

**28 Friday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Beginner's Archery Pt.II**

**For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/burroak/>**